



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society
February 2014



Storm Damage

Main Photo: 8 Band Quad at EI7BA

Top Left: Hex Beam at EI2KE

Right: VHF Aerials at EI2KC

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Silent Key – Peadar EI4W

The death occurred of Peadar Joyce (Lenaboy Park, Salthill, Galway and Killeany, Inishmore Nov. 27, 2013 (peacefully), after a long illness borne with patience and fortitude at An Teaghlach Uilinn Retirement Home, Moycullen (Retired Post Master, Galway), pre-deceased by his loving wife Norah and much loved father and deeply mourned by his sons and daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.
Suaimhneas síoraí tabhair dó, a Thiarna.

Silent Key – Tom EI6GB

The death has occurred of Tom Hughes EI6GB of Rathnew, Ardmore Park Bray and Point Road Dundalk. Tom died peacefully at his home on Monday December 2nd.
Tom was a regular caller on the Sunday radio news bulletins and was a great 10metre enthusiast. The Society was represented at his funeral in Ashford by the Vice President, Jim Smith EI4CP. To his partner Frances, his sisters Mary and Valerie, his brother Billy and to his extended family we offer our deepest sympathy.
May he rest in peace.

When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published.

Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use www.irts.ie/renew to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down.

Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer
memrecords@irts.ie



Irish Radio Transmitters Society



Annual General Meeting

March 23rd 2014

**Galway Bay Hotel,
Salthill, Galway**

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at
1400 on Sunday March 23rd
at the Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway.

Committee Nominations

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations;

President Seamus McCague EI8BP
Vice-President Jim Smith EI4CP

Committee

Ger McNamara EI4GXB
Jim Holohan EI4HH
Steve Wright EI5DD
Paul O'Kane EI5DI
Paul Barlow, EI5KI
Dave O'Connor EI6AL
Brendan Minish EI6IZ
John Ronan EI7IG
Brian Canning EI8IU
Ken O'Brien EI9EL
Lisa Cummins EI9GSB

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as Committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency, or by any two members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions. (Rule 23.2)

News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday					
Dublin	1100	7.123	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Ger EI4GXB	
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS	
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK	
Clare	1200	3.650	SSB	Ger EI4GXB, Sean EI7CD	
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450 - 70.375 - 50.450			
			FM	John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB	
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB	
Monday					
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN	
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB	
Louth	2000	145.675		Thos EI2JD, Anthony EI2KC, Jim EI2HJB	
Tuesday					
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	David EI6GVB	
North Cork	2000	430.925	FM	Lisa EI9GSB	

Nominations for IRTS Awards 2014

You are invited to nominate a person to receive an award for "Service to the IRTS or Amateur Radio."

The nominations in this category are open to persons who are an IRTS member and or non-member.

All nominations are welcome.

Under the category "Awards for other Achievement", you may nominate IRTS members only.

Awards in this category include the 4 Metre and 6 metre Shields; the SWL award and the awards for Quality Construction Projects.

When you are considering a person for nomination to receive an award please refer to previous winners and these may be viewed on www.irts.ie/cgi/awards.cgi

Nominations may be from clubs or individuals and must be submitted by post or e-mail, and can be forwarded to

Jim Holohan, EI4HH,
Chairman Awards Committee,
QTHR,
or
email awards@irts.ie.

Closing date for nominations is February 28th 2014.

The 5 MHz Newsletter

The Winter 2013-4 Edition - 09 - of *The 5 MHz Newsletter* is now available.

It's a new year with new allocations and a bumper 5-page issue !

As well as latest news there's also an article on the Supremacy of 5 MHz as a Communication Bridge, Beacon Spot features the new South African ZS6KTS Beacon plus items on Digital Voice and another new webSDR on 60m, together with the latest update of the *Worldwide 5 MHz Amateur Allocations Chart* - now with a total of 31 countries.

Hot off the press is information from UK regulator Ofcom that there are now over four thousand UK 5 MHz Amateur NoVs.

You can find *The 5 MHz Newsletter* at

<http://tinyurl.com/o26huzb>

or in the 'External Links' section of the Wikipedia 60m Band page:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/60-meter_band

or in the 5 MHz section of *The Southgate Ham Forum*

<http://www.amateurradiotoday.com/forum>

Cheers,

Paul Gaskell G4MWO

Paddy at the Golden Gate By Bernie EI6AX

Have you ever heard the story of the Irish Ham who died and made his way without delay

Across the great divide?

When St. Peter saw him coming his face began to glow.

"Pat" said he "'Tis time that we

Had an eyeball QSO"

With 73s and 88s exchanged between the men, said Pat to Pete

"Tis time that you

Let poor old Paddy in.

"This QTH is ufb for working all the boys. I'll build a shack just at the back

Of dear old Paradise"

"Paddy now" said Pete who spoke in much more serious tone

"you must detail your lifelong work back in your Irish home.

I must be sure you used your time to better your own soul and did not waste your

Duty hours beside the microphone"

"Pete, old man" said Pat who spoke in very earnest whispers "I was licensed long ago

When people used cat's whiskers

When QRM did not exist and gear was large galore and rare DX was any place

Beyond the old shack door.

What a change from those early days of our new-formed Irish nation

To the present times of crushing noise and minaturisation.

I'm proud to state that I ne'er did break the laws of the GPO.

Secure and firm and shielded well I kept my VFO

Clicks, chirps and parasitics had no chance of escaping

As with high and low-pass filters I suppressed their radiating."

"Rodger Rodger Pat" said Pete as he smiled from ear to ear.

Your story is fine business, and you'll be glad to hear that I'm a short-wave listener

And I've noted every time how your signals here in heaven

Were a glorious five and nine. So QRX a minute 'til I call your friends of yore"

"CQ DX" said Peter through the keyhole of the door. The Golden gates swung open

And lined up just inside were Fleming and Marconi and a legion of the boys.

"Dia 's Muire dhibh" said Paddy in a good old Irish tone, as he walked along with Peter

Towards a sparkling golden throne. Then Peter called for order And from a butter-box on High said "Fáilte rómhat, a Phádraig Míle fáilte rómhat, old boy"

So our Irish ham was seated on a Golden Throne above

And he viewed his many contacts with kindness and with love

And all the hams of heaven surrounded him with joy

And felt honoured in the presence of

A Canonised EI !!



Irish Radio Transmitters Society

82nd AGM Weekend



**Hosted by
The Galway VHF Group**

Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway

Saturday March 22nd - IRTS Annual Dinner
Start at 2000 - Tickets €35.00

Sunday March 23rd - Radio Rally
Doors open 1100. Admission €5.00
Bookings for Dealers' Stands to Steve EI5DD at QTHR.
Tables for individuals/sole traders are also available from Steve
at no cost other than the entrance fee of €5.

IRTS AGM at 1400

All paid up IRTS members welcome

Traders to date:

- Maplin Electronics
- South East Communications
- WESCOM
- Long Communications
- Radio Trader Ireland
- Sean Martin (PMR Conversions)

- Wills Electronics
- XL Computer Systems Galway
- Galway Airsoft Supplies
- **Bring and Buy Stand** manned by Arthur EI7GMB

Individuals will have to book a table as early as possible as space is allocated on a first come first served basis. Contact Steve EI5DD

Dinner Tickets enquiries to

Steve EI5DD on 087-2451218 wright14@gmail.com

John EI1EM on 086-8154979

Galway Bay Hotel Rates

Double Room B&B - €99.00 Single Room B&B- €70.00

Telephone Hotel on 091 520520

Mention Galway VHF Group/IRTS when booking!



HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

It's been a good while since I've written a column, and a lot of DX water has passed under the bridge since that time.

I hope that your antennas have survived the harsh winter. I know many hams have suffered damage or lost antennas due to the barrage of storms that have swept in over Ireland over the past couple of months.

It's easily the worst winter for wind storms, not to mention flooding, in recent memory. It almost seems as if there were two severe storms every week. And each storm seems to bring increased awareness about, and anxiety over, the state of one's antennas.

In this area alone, several of us hams have either lost antennas completely or had antennas damaged. And I'm sure it's been the same right around the country. One big DXer recently told me that he woke at half past midnight during a storm and went out in the wind and rain to lower down his tower. He couldn't sleep.

I only have a hexbeam on a stayed pole and a few other small antennas, and even I have had a few sleepless nights.

The hexbeam has suffered damage.

The hex-shaped base has come away slightly from the stub and needs to be tightened. But more severe is the fact that the 12 metre wire and the 15 metre wire have both snapped.

The hexbeam is quite a flexible antenna. I have watched during several storms as it bent right over. The spreader arms are flexible. They seem to be able to withstand a good wind. But in flexing about, they stretch the wires and unfortunately some of these decided they have had enough!!

Thos Caffrey EI2JD suffered the loss of his inverted-V system in December. He had nested V dipoles for 160 metres, 80 metres and 40 metres. The supporting mast was bent right over by the gusts at the coastal village of Clogherhead.

Brian Cowley EI9GTB lost an element from his TH7.

In Clare, Ger McNamara EI4GXB also lost an element off his three-element beam.

Another Clogherhead, Co. Louth ham, Seamus Campbell EI3KE, who we met in the last instalment of HF Happenings, had his homebrew hexbeam completely wrecked by a storm. My damage looks mild in comparison!

I also nearly lost my VHF array. The stub

pole supporting my 2m XY beam and my 3-element 6m beam broke. They had to be taken down.

For now, an Antron 99 has been put on the pole until I get a new rotator and stub for the VHF antennas.

Those of you who have managed to keep antennas in the air probably found, as I did, that the December-January period was a quiet one for DX.

Perhaps that wasn't a bad thing!

There was an absolute frenzy of DXpeditions in November, at the end of which I and several others were suffering from pile-up fatigue.

I entered a bit of a HF hiatus from about mid December until mid January, hardly making any contacts in that time frame.

There were no major DXCC entities on the air that I needed, and the next one to come live was the FT5ZM Amsterdam Island activation, of which I will speak more later.

Recent DX

I call this "recent DX", but I am talking about last November, when it seemed that half the world's rare or semi-rare entities were being activated. It certainly was a busy time. There was a pile-up of pile-ups!

This wasn't helped by the Government shutdown in the USA which forced the K9W Wake Island commemorative DXpedition to be delayed into November, adding to the chaos. They should have been finished when others, such as Banaba Island, were coming on the air.

At one time in November, I counted no fewer than TWELVE concurrent DXpeditions. It really was quite incredible.

First to pop up in November was the **5J0R** DXpedition operating from HK0-S San Andres. An international team activated this Caribbean entity, and logged over 80,000 QSOs. Thankfully the Caribbean is eminently workable from Ireland, and there was a healthy dose of EI hams who made it into their log. They have an online log, but not a league table, so without checking each call individually I cannot tell you who came out on top.



Well done to everyone who worked 5J0R, especially those who nabbed an ATNO (All-time new one). I managed 16 QSOs myself, including 80 metres CW and 80 metres SSB, which I was extremely happy with.

The **K9W Wake Island** DXpedition proved to be more challenging, but by the end of it, 31 EIs had made it into their log.

The propagation window for Ireland was very narrow – usually for an hour in our morning and an hour in the evening, on the grey line.

Congratulations to all those who made it into the log, particularly the top twelve: EI7BA (12 slots), EI2CN (12), EI9KC (8), EI3KG (6), EI6IL (6), EI9FBB (5), EI4CF (5), EI2GLB (4), EI5JQ (3), EI4II (3), EI7JZ (3) and EI6FR (3).

Also in early November was the **T33A Banaba Island** activation. Again because of its location in the Pacific, the openings into EI were restricted to narrow windows of opportunity.

There were 31 EI callsigns in their log at the end of the DXpedition.

I found it tough going, but still managed three slots.

Top of the pile from Ireland was Ark EI9KC with seven slots, followed closely by EI2CN and EI3KG on 6 and veteran DXers John EI7BA and Declan EI6FR on five apiece.

Overlapping with T33A and 5J0R was **XR0ZR, the Juan Fernandez** DXpedition which was QRV from Robinson Crusoe Island in the Juan Fernandez archipelago which is out in the Pacific Ocean off Chile.

The propagation was interesting to say the least. 10m CW offered the best chance and indeed that's where I worked them first, logging another ATNO and DXCC #299 in my log.

But I was absolutely chuffed and delighted to work them on 80m CW, particularly as the antennas here are poor for the low bands.

Only four or five of us EIs worked them on 80 metres. I have to extend a very special congratulations to John Tait

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EI7BA who was the only Irish ham to work them on top band. Well done John.

Top of the pile from Ireland with ten slots apiece were Don EI6IL and Ark EI9KC. Congrats also to EI4II and EI3KC on nine slots apiece, and EI9FBB, EI4KF and EI4CF on seven each.

A total of 42 EI calls were logged.

KH8 American Samoa came on the air in mid November and proved extremely difficult. I missed out on a QSO with W8A, but managed to nab KH8/WD5COV on 20 CW so I was glad not to be completely humiliated!!

Only 14 EI callsigns are in the W8A log, with John EI7BA topping the list with four band slots.

Also at that time the **J88HL** DXpedition from St. Vincent sprang into life.

This was an activation by a Polish team of amateurs and they were fantastic operators. It proved to be great fun as well, due in no small way to the fact that the Caribbean is nicely workable from Ireland.

No fewer than 86 Irish hams made it into the log. I have to admit to maybe overdoing it on this one. I tried to work them on every slot conceivable, and indeed managed 22 band slots, finishing top of the pile in joint first along with Mark EI6JK and Ark EI9KC.

It was nice to get another new one into the log on 80 metres too, both on CW and on SSB.

During the winter time I find the Caribbean stations quite easy to work coming towards our grey line, when the rest of Europe is in daylight.

In fact, my 80m SSB contact was made with my Butternut vertical and just 100 watts.

Well done to all who worked them, including Declan EI4GJB with 19 slots, EI8FH and EI3KG with 15, EI6FR with 12 and EI6IL and EI7CC both on 11.

This column could get quite lengthy if I start to give you an exhaustive list of the DX, but there really was a spectacular amount of it to be worked in November. Among others, there was VP2V British Virgin Islands, 3DA0ET Swaziland, S21ZBC Bangladesh, HD2T Ecuador, Z81X South Sudan, TX8B New Caledonia and several others.

Myanmar was activated for the third time in 2013 with the callsign **XZ1J**.

This was a fantastic opportunity for some to work a new one, or to fill out slots. Top of the pile here was Doug EI2CN with 16 band slots, followed by EI9FBB (9), EI2KC (7), EI9KC and EI6IL (6), EI6JK and EI4KF (5) and EI5GM and



EI4GJB (4). 52 EI callsigns were logged.

Also on air during that hectic month of November was **VU7AG, from Lakshadweep Islands**, offering some of us the chance for an ATNO (DXCC #302 here) and others to get some slots.

A total of 55 Irish hams made it into the log.

Top of the Clublog charts on that one were Ark EI9KC on 17 slots, Don EI6IL and Dave EI9FBB on 14 each, Michal EI3KG on 13 and Declan EI6FR on 12.

There was other DX knocking about the bands, but to be honest it was such a manic period that it would be nearly impossible to mention everything.

A very special QSO for me personally was a 10m SSB contact with ZS8C, Carson McAfee, who was operating from Marion Island. That was a new country for me. But the most special contact of the winter was with FW5JJ on Wallis & Futuna, which became my 300th country logged when I managed a 20m SSB QSO on November 11th.

As I am writing this, the FT5ZM DXpedition to Amsterdam Island in the southern Indian Ocean is still on air. The pile-ups, even after two full weeks of operation, are still quite substantial. It has been a tremendous activation, and they are well over the 100,000 QSO mark. That's not surprising as they are an excellent team, and of course Amsterdam Island is the seventh most wanted DXCC entity.

At the time of writing, no fewer than 75 EIs are in the log. Some of these are obviously busted callsigns, but the number of EI stations worked is substantial. Well done to everyone for persevering in the pile-ups and for logging this rare one, which was last activated in 1998.



TO7CC

Although it is ongoing as I write this and will probably be QRT by the time you get your copy of Echo Ireland, I had to mention the TO7CC DXpedition to FR-R Reunion Island. That's because two members of the team are Irish hams.

Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM and Dave Deane EI9FBB are both out there, putting Reunion on the air for all those who need it. I've already had three QSOs with them, including a 12 metre SSB QSO with Dave Deane on the mic.

I hope they thoroughly enjoy their time on the DXpedition, and I expect that you might be reading about it in the next issue of Echo Ireland!

Upcoming DXpeditions and activations

Now we need to look ahead, to see what is happening in the near future on the HF bands. There is always plenty of DX to be worked. The big question is whether you need a particular DX entity as a new country. I have a habit of writing this column from the standpoint of my own log and what I have worked. I will try to make sure this month to include any DXCC that might be of interest to the general HF enthusiast and not just the most serious DX chasers.

Conditions have been excellent of late and within the past 48 hours the sunspot number has been up at 241, the highest I've ever seen it. So now is a good time to hit the bands and work DX.

With conditions this good, you should be able to work far away stations with low power and modest antennas.

5V Togo

Operators Phil/F5MVB and Joel/F5AOW are planning to be active as 5V7MP and 5V7BJ, respectively, from Avepozo between March 23-31st. Activity will be on CW and SSB. Details on bands have not been announced yet but will be forthcoming. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or by the Bureau.

5X Uganda

Just a reminder that Alan, G3XAQ, will return to be active as 5X1XA from the capital city of Kampala between February 25th and March 16th. Activity will be CW only. He will also be in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (March 8-9th). QSL 5X1XA via G3SWH.

9J Zambia

Members of the Italian DXpedition Team are planning to be active as 9J2T between February 28th and March 17th. Operators mentioned are Silvano/I2YSB, Vinicio/IK2CIO, Angelo/IK2CKR, Marcello/IK2DIA, Stefano/IK2HKT, Alfeo/I1HJT

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 7)

and Mac/JA3USA. Activity will be on all bands, 160-6 meters using all modes. QSL via I2YSB, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS will be available for direct QSL and LoTW at: <http://win.i2ysb.com/loginonline/>

9X Rwanda

9X, RWANDA. Nick, G3RWF, will once again be active as 9X0NH from Rwanda between March 3-12th. Activity will be from Kigali on most HF bands and will be mainly CW with some SSB using K3 w/100 watts and wire antennas (Inverted V at about 40 Ft.). There will be no 160m, but he will be on 6 meters. Operations will include an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (March 8-9th). QSL via G3RWF. Nick states, "I use LoTW and do my own QSLing (prefer ClubLog)."

A3 Tonga

Both Keith/GM4YXI and Chris/GM3WOJ/ZL1CT (GM2V, ZK2V, VK9CZ) will be active as A35X and A35V, respectively, from Tongatapu Island (OC-049) between April 4-18th. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW and SSB, with some RTTY. QSL both A35V and A35X via N3SL.

C5 The Gambia

C5, THE GAMBIA. Dom, M1TKA, will be active as C5/M1TKA from a beach sea front location in The Gambia between February 27th and March 10th. Activity will be holiday style on 20/17/15 meters operating QRP using CW, SSB and RTTY. He also may try 160m. Dom states, "On the last weekend between 12:00 UTC 8th and 12:00 UTC 9th March, unless you are in a BERU country I will likely ignore you please try another time." QSL via his home callsign or the LoTW. For more details and updates, see his Blog page at: <http://m1kta-qrp.blogspot.co.uk>

FY French Guyana

FY, FRENCH GUYANA. Christian, F5UII, will be active as FY/F5UII from the radio club station FY5KE in Kourou City between February 18-27th. Activity will be limited because of his work, but look for him on 80-10 meters on SSB. He suggests to look for him during the weekday mornings about 1000-1100z and after 2100z. Also, look for him in the France SSB Championship which runs from February 22-23rd. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

PJ6 Saba

PJ6, SABA. Operators Jeff/KB1ZOJ, John/K5AC, George/N4GRN, YL Valerie/NV9L and Gregg/W6IZT will be



Jeremy EI5GM on Bere Island

Jeremy and Dave EI9FBB are just back from Reunion Island where they operated as part of the TO7CC DXpedition team

active as PJ6A from Saba Island (NA-145, WFF PAFF-027, WLOTA 2043) during the ARRL DX SSB contest (March 1-2nd) as a Multi-Single entry. QSL PJ6A via N4NX.

The team will be active outside (before/after) of the contest as PJ6/homecall, possibly on CW and RTTY. Dates were not provided on their stay. Listen for QSL instructions by the operators.

3C0 Annobon Island

Elmo EA5BYP will be on as 3C0BYP from now until March 8th.

3C Equatorial Guinea

After March 8th, EA5BYP could operate for a few days as 3C4BYP. QSL for this call and the one above go via his home call.

YV0 Aves Island

There is a plan to activate YV0 Aves Island, the 32nd most wanted DXCC, by the 4M5DX group. However, at time of

going to press there is no word on exactly when. Activation was planned sometime between November 2013 and February 2014. Keep an eye on <http://www.avesisland.info/> for more information. According to the group's Twitter feed, they are just awaiting final approval from the navy before proceeding. This should be workable easily from Ireland as it is in the Caribbean.

VK9M Mellish Reef

VK9M Mellish Reef is the 23rd most wanted DXCC. An international team of operators will activate Mellish as VK9MT from March 28th to April 9th. This will be a good opportunity to try to bag a rare one. Keep up to date with the team's plans on their website <http://vk9mt.com/>

ZL7 Chatham Island

One of the furthest DXCC entities from Ireland is ZL7 Chatham Island.

This relatively rare one (no. 68 on the Clublog Most Wanted list) will be activated in March under the callsign ZL7AAA.

Plans are still being formulated as I write this. Check on the progress of these plans on the official website of ZL7AA at <http://www.qsl.net/zl7aaa/>

FO-A Austral Islands

A group of seven UK operators will activate Raivavae in Austral Islands from March 20th until April 1st on all bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY.

They will sign TX6G. Austral is the 60th most wanted entity. More information can be obtained at the DXpedition website <http://tx6g.com/>

That's all the news for now folks. As usual, thanks to OPDX, DX-world.net, DXcoffee.com and Mario I2MQP's DX news bulletin for all the information.

Don't forget that if you hear anything unusual or would like to contribute to HF Happenings in any way, you can drop me an email to hamradioireland@gmail.com.

I am also on Twitter as @hamradioireland and of course you can follow my own exploits on the bands on my blog at hamradioireland.blogspot.com

I'm hoping to see some of you at the Coolmine rally, and if not perhaps at the IRTS AGM weekend in Galway.

Happy hunting and enjoy the great conditions at the moment.

73 and *Slán go foil*,
Anthony EI2KC

**Request for Old O'Connell Bridge
Video
Received by email.**

My grandfather was Willie Barron who was involved in the North Dublin Radio Club.

I'm getting in touch because I am currently working on a documentary film and we are seeking old amateur video or film footage of Dublin specifically of O'Connell bridge from the 1930s to the 1980s.

I know a lot of your members would have been interested in technology and would have probably been amongst the first to own super 8 and camcorders over the years and was wondering if some of the those involved in radio clubs might either have some video footage or be able to help with some contacts.

The documentary is about Arthur Fields who worked as a photographer on O'Connell Bridge taking photos of passersby for over 50 years. This short video will give you an idea of what it is all about:

<https://vimeo.com/71344085> and there's also our facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/manonbridge>

All the best,
Niall de Buitlear

<mailto:niall@elzorrerofilms.ie>

(Willie Barron EI6BUB was President of IRTS 1987-89)

Hurdy Gurdy Museum, Howth



Tom Fagan, Slawomir SQ1FYY, Tony EI5EM, Tom, Mike EI2DJ

Feb 5th 2014 - picture by EI2JZ

Online Access to Echo Ireland

If you would like to have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards and receive new issues of Echo Ireland by way of electronic download instead of in hard copy, please advise the Membership Records Officer.

Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:
memrecords@irts.ie

Shannon Basin Club Gathering at EI8IU's Shack



Volker DL8WEM, Axel EI8JX, Anthony EI6GGB, Niall EI4CF, Brian EI8IU, Craig EI3FW, Tony EI3HA

Amateur Station Licence Examination

The next Amateur Station Licence Examination will be held on Thursday 22nd May in the ComReg Offices in Dublin. Places for the examination are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis so you are advised to apply early. Some applications for this exam have already been received. If warranted by the number of candidates, a morning session will be held in addition to the usual afternoon session.

Full details, including entry procedure, examination fee and how to pay the fee on line are available at www.irts.ie/exam. Please note that it is necessary to download the application form from the web page and forward the completed form and the appropriate fee so as to secure a place for the examination. If you pay the fee on line you must still complete and forward the application form. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is 30th April.

Amateur Station Licence Examination Report

The Amateur Station Licence exam has two sections of 30 questions each: the first section deals with amateur radio regulations and related topics while the second section covers the theory side. The pass mark for each section is 60%. Five exams were held in 2012 and 2013, involving 70 candidates, with 49 (70%) being successful.

The majority of candidates sitting the exam in recent years have been studying on their own; unfortunately few clubs are now offering classes for would-be licensees – principally, they say, because there is not enough demand. The ready availability of home-study materials on the web has changed the way people prepare for all types of exams. One weakness in this approach for the amateur station licence exam is that practical experience, which in the past would have been gained in a club environment, is absent for those relying exclusively on home-study: this absence becomes all too clear when it comes to tackling questions about permitted frequencies, operating procedures, country prefixes and band plans.

Like many other hobbies and pastimes, amateur radio is changing; the emphasis on home construction and circuit design is reducing, for various reasons including the fact that sourcing discrete components is becoming increasingly difficult. The majority of radio amateurs are now using commercial transceivers, leaving the experimental side of the hobby to areas such as antenna construction and propagation. The HAREC syllabus, which forms the basis of the topics to be covered in the exam, has not changed significantly in the recent past, however we have been able, with the support of ComReg, to develop a HAREC-standard syllabus that reflects some of the technical and other developments in our hobby. In particular, the syllabus we now use has a strong emphasis on regulatory issues, while on the theory side the focus is on examining how well candidates understand the key concepts and principles behind radio communications.

Moving to the individual topics examined in the five recent exams, we can make a number of specific observations that should be of assistance to prospective candidates for future exams.

Section A – Amateur Radio Regulations and Related Topics

Some of the questions in this section tests the candidates knowledge of parts of ComReg's "Amateur Station Licence Guidelines", of published band plans and of the Radio Regulations relevant to amateur radio. The syllabus identifies specifically which topics may be covered in the exam, and the 'Notes for Candidates' included in the syllabus document elaborates further on these.

It is not surprising that prospective EI licensees are expected to demonstrate familiarity with the fundamental rules, regulations and procedures governing amateur radio, in view of the fact that the radio spectrum that we amateurs use is shared with so many different services, plus the fact that our activities on the bands can often be received many thousands of kilometres away.

What is surprising, however, is the number of candidates who seem to approach the exam without a proper grasp of some of the basic rules and procedures – such as the frequency ranges available to radio amateurs, or the band plan provisions about contests, beacons and permitted modes. We must demonstrate that, if licensed, we will know what frequencies we can use, and how amateur activities within the authorised frequency

bands are organised.

Studying rules and regulations can be tedious, however this is an area where operating under supervision, such as in a club, can be a great help: we would therefore advise students to seek guidance from the more experienced operators who might be willing to supervise their initial efforts.

Experience on the air can very quickly make frequency ranges, country prefixes and band plans seem interesting!

Section A also covers electromagnetic compatibility, transmitter interference and safety, which test some of the more practical aspects of setting up and operating a station.

Again, practical experience can help candidates prepare for these topics. Areas that candidates seem to have some difficulty with include the design and usage of filters, the purpose and placement of fuses, antenna safety and minimising risks from the mains power supply.

Section B – Amateur Radio Theory and Related Topics

The first part of Section B will typically include a few questions that involve calculations with resistors, capacitors or inductors in parallel or in series. While calculators are provided to the candidates, the maths involved is very simple and, as is pointed out in the 'Notes for Candidates', an intuitive understanding of what happens when these components are put in series or in parallel is just as important as knowing what formula to use.

Many candidates are well prepared for the Ohm's Law related questions, but seem less certain of their ground when it comes to understanding the usage of components such as diodes, transistors and quartz crystals, or the pros and cons of different amplifier biasing methods.

Moving to more practical areas such as feeders, antennas, propagation and measurements, the standard of answering improves: one weak point is the understanding of transmission line impedance, another topic that has created problems is the effect of standing waves on a transmission line.

We were surprised in some recent exams to discover that only a minority of candidates displayed a knowledge of the desirable features of a good voltmeter, and likewise the relationship between voltage, power and resistance was poorly understood.

The next exam – April/May 2014

The best advice we can give to those planning to sit the amateur station licence exam in 2014 is, ideally, to participate in a formal course but, if this is not possible, to try to get experience operating under supervision.

Plenty of study material is available on the web:

Syllabus

This can be downloaded from the IRTS web site – see www.irts.ie/exam. The document 'Studying for the Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate' includes the syllabus and a sample paper.

See also the 'Notes for Candidates' in the syllabus document, as well as the four pages of Annexes, containing key information that is very relevant to the exam questions.

Course CD

IRTS has published a CD-based guide to topics covered by the syllabus; see the Amateur Station Licence Examination page on the IRTS web site for details of how to order this CD.

(Continued on page 11)

Radio Theory Links

The page at www.irts.ie/theory includes links to a number of web sites containing information on radio theory.

ComReg

The Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Station Licence) Regulations and the Amateur Station Licence Guidelines are both available on the ComReg web site – which is linked from the Radio Theory Links page referred to above.

While clubs may have difficulty gathering enough support to mount a formal training programme, we would urge them to look at other ways of helping newcomers to become familiar with amateur radio practices and procedures. Allowing newcomers to operate under supervision – on an ordinary club night or at a special event, field day or contest – is a great way of introducing them to the hobby and developing their operating skills.

IRTS Examinations Board

Seán Nolan EI7CD, Sean Donelan EI4GK, Joe Ryan EI7GY

Tipperary Amateur Radio Group – AGM

On Wednesday 27th November 2013 last, members of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group met in Clonmel at 8.30pm for their 19th AGM.

This was a well attended meeting with group members travelling from Co Kilkenny, Co Waterford, Co Limerick and Co Cork joining their Co Tipperary based colleagues. Paul EI3ENB chaired this very productive meeting with John EI7IG reading the minutes from last years AGM.

The group treasurer Thomas EI2IT reported a healthy financial situation for the group, which was formed in October 1994. A detailed review of the years' activities took place. Particular praise was given to Eddie EI3FFB for reading the weekly IRTS news every Sunday evening at 8.30pm on 145.450MHz FM.

A venue change for group meetings was proposed and as from 2014 all future meetings will be held at The Park Hotel, Clonmel.

The new committee was then elected for the coming year and the meeting concluded at 11.30pm when Paul EI3ENB thanked all for their input and efforts in attending this most important event of the calendar year for TARG.

The new committee was elected as follows:-

Chairman	Paul Norris, EI3ENB
Vice Chairman	Eddie Kavangh, EI3FFB
Secretary	John Ronan, EI7IG
Treasurer	Thomas Hallinan, EI2IT
Group PRO	Hugh O'Donnell, EI2HI

Limerick Radio Club Special Event Callsign EI4LCC

Limerick City is honoured and delighted to be Ireland's first National City of Culture 2014.

To celebrate the event, members of Limerick Radio Club will air EI4LCC, Limerick City of Culture 2014, during 2014 from their own QTH & from various locations within Limerick.

All details are on QRZ.com

Mayo Rally 2013

The Mayo Radio Rally 2013 was held on Sunday November 17th at the welcome Inn Hotel in Castlebar.



The club would like to thank all who attended, traders, punters and everybody who helped in any way to make it another great success.

Special thanks to Adrian and the Welcome Inn Hotel who hosted the event. We look forward to doing it all over again in 2014.



The Bring and Buy Stand



The Irish Radio Transmitters Society Stand



The South East Communications Stand



The Long Communications Stand



Brazilian Amateur Radio League "80 Years of LABRE" Commemoration

Rules

The **Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Rádio Emissão - LABRE** (Brazilian Amateur Radio League), founded on February 2, 1934, will complete 80 years of existence and throughout the month of February 2014 will conduct a special operation to commemorate such an auspicious event.

In that period will **LABRE** stations operating in all Brazilian states, with special callsigns as follows:

State	Callsign	State	Callsign
Acre	ZZ 80 AC	Pará	ZZ 80 PA
Alagoas	ZZ 80 AL	Paraná	ZZ 80 PR
Amapá	ZZ 80 AP	Pernambuco	ZZ 80 PE
Amazonas	ZZ 80 AM	Piauí	ZZ 80 PI
Bahia	ZZ 80 BA	Rio de Janeiro	ZZ 80 RJ
Ceará	ZZ 80 CE	Rio Grande do Norte	ZZ 80 RN
Distrito Federal	ZZ 80 DF	Rio Grande do Sul	ZZ 80 RS
Espírito Santo	ZZ 80 ES	Rondônia	ZZ 80 RO
Goiás	ZZ 80 GO	Roraima	ZZ 80 RR
Maranhão	ZZ 80 MA	Santa Catarina	ZZ 80 SC
Mato Grosso	ZZ 80 MT	São Paulo	ZZ 80 SP
Mato Grosso do Sul	ZZ 80 MS	Sergipe	ZZ 80 SE
Minas Gerais	ZZ 80 MG	Tocantins	ZZ 80 TO
Paraíba	ZZ 80 PB		

The operation will be performed on all HF bands and also in the 2 meter band, the various transmissions modes.

All QSOs will be confirmed by commemorative QSL card by **LABRE**. Specifically for QSO made from 03:00 UTC on February 1, 2014 until 02:59 UTC on February 3, 2014, to deliver a beautiful **80 Years LABRE Diploma**, just one QSO with any station to jus do it.

All QSL and diplomas will be sent automatically as noted in the **LABRE** stations logs, no needed your log.

All QSL and diplomas will be sent via the bureau. If the participant prefers to receive a diploma or QSL via direct, you must send your QSL as follows:

- To receive QSL: 1 IRC or 2 GS (maximum 3 QSL each envelope)
- To receive diploma: 3 IRC or 5 GS

Send to:

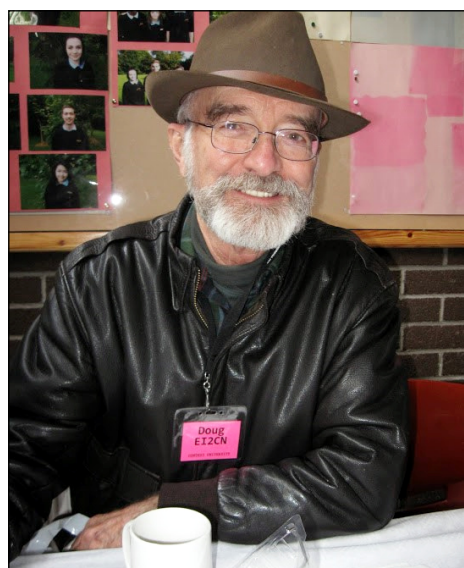
LABRE 80 YEARS
Caixa Postal 4
70351-970 Brasilia – DF
BRAZIL

To receive the QSL or the diploma via bureau is not necessary send your QSL, but **LABRE**, defender of that tradition and courtesy existing on the world amateur radio, will feel very honored to receive the QSL cards of all participants .

Ham Radio QSO you do with all the 27 stations will receive automatically the **Diploma WAB " Worked All Brazil "** , without request and without charge .



Charlie EI2EM



Doug EI2CN



Terry EI8Z

Pictures by Joe EI2JZ



Brazilian Amateur Radio League

The LABRE Awards Programme

The **Liga De Radioamadores Brasileiros Dd Rádio Emissão - LABRE**, homaging the amateur radio in general and as incentive to the practical one to collect Diplomas and the practical one of the DX, offers the diplomas below discriminated. The Diplomas could be worked in Digital, SSB, CW or Compound.

The Diploma WAB (Worked All Brazil) is available for all the amateur radio of the world that confirm contact with Brazilian stations in all the 26 (twenty six) Brazilian states and the Capital of the Country, Brasilia-DF.

The Diploma WAA (Worked All America) is available for all the amateur radio of the world that confirm contact with 45 (forty five) countries in the American geographic areas, according to official list of DXCC. One of them, obligatorily, will have that to be Brazil

The Diploma WAO (Worked Atlantic Ocean) is available for all the amateur radio of the world that confirm contacts with 21 (twenty one) countries bathed for the Atlantic Ocean and at least a situated Brazilian station in each one of its geographic regions, as to follow

- 1ª Region: PP1 or PY1;
- 2ª Region: PP2, PQ2, PT2 or PY2;
- 3ª Region: PY3;
- 4ª Region: PY4;
- 5ª Region: PP5 or PY5;
- 6ª Region: PP6 or PY6;
- 7ª Region: PP7, PR7, PS7, PT7 or PY7;
- 8ª Region: PP8, PQ8, PR8, PS8, PT8, PV8, PW8 or PY8;
- 9ª Region: PT9 or PY9
- Oceanic islands: PY0

The Diploma DBDX (Brazilian DX Diploma) is available for all the amateur radio of the world that confirm contact with a minimum of 20 (twenty) constant different countries of the official list of the DXCC being obligatorily one of them Brazil.

All the contacts must have indistinctly been done in the bands of 40, 80 and 160 meters

General norms to be obligatorily considered and that they follow the International Conventions:

All the contacted stations will be stations of hams functioning in accordance with the national and international legislation, in the authorized and/or permitted bands.

All the contacts will be with terrestrial stations, not being considered contacts with anchored ships and/or aircraft.

The LOGs must be notarized for the Director of Diplomas, a Check-point or, in the lack of these, two hams of the solicitant Country, will be evaluated conferred for the Director of Diplomas of the LABRE, accurately as they will be received. The QSL cards don't have to be sent.

All the requests will have to be sent to the address of the folloied LABRE of 10 (ten) US dollars or the equivalent in IRC for the foreign hams and a blank QSL of the petitioner. (Brazilian stations = R\$ 6,50)

LABRE
Award Manager
Caixa Postal 4
70351-970 Brasília - DF
BRAZIL

IRTS Technical Panel

The IRTS has launched a new service for amateur radio operators in Ireland. In our ongoing endeavours to engage more fully with amateurs we have identified an area we feel could be of significant benefit to them. What is it?

The IRTS Technical Panel is a group of volunteers who have expertise in, or experience of, different aspects of amateur radio.

Our aim is to help radio amateurs with technical or operational problems.

What types of problems do we handle?

We don't have a definitive list; however, here are some of the issues that we would have some expertise in:-

- Antennas (e.g. best antenna for a given location, matching antennas to rigs)
- Station operation (e.g. TVI, RF in the shack)
- Sourcing components (e.g. "where can I get toroids?")
- IT issues (e.g. logging programs, rig interfacing, LoTW uploads)

How do I ask a question?

Send your question to irtstech@irts.ie. Provide as much information as possible, including details of attempts already made to deal with the issue in question.

How do I get an answer?

Your query via irtstech@irts.ie will be distributed to all the members of the Technical Panel and the resolution to the query e-mailed to you.

The Future ...

In time we plan to compile a database of questions and answers from our correspondence. This database could be the first port of call in resolving a query.

Who is on the technical panel?

Good question ... maybe you? Currently, we are assembling a panel of experts on all the topics likely to arise.

We need more volunteers; if you can help, please send your details to irtstech@irts.ie.

Jim Holohan EI4HH is the co-ordinator of the Technical Panel.

The evenings are beginning to stretch, the winter is slowly passing over and although the weather for the start of 2014 has been miserable, spring is approaching and 2013 seems a distant memory.

Overall we can't complain about 2013.

I suppose it had its ups and downs but the brilliant weather we had last summer put a smile on our faces even though the recession still glooms.

2013 was a really busy year for the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group.

It could have possibly have been our busiest to date.

For anyone that doesn't know us we are based in Waterford city and we have members in many counties around Ireland.

Repeaters

We maintain and operate three voice repeaters in the South East that constitute part of the 'Southern Ireland Repeater Network' which is a co-operative effort between SEARG and the East Cork Radio Group (EI7M) and has a total of five repeaters that are RF linked and IRLP enabled.

The IRTS weekly news is broadcast via these repeaters each Tuesday night at 9:30pm.

We have regular club meetings in the Roanmore Centre in Waterford city where new members are always very welcome.

Well back to 2013 and where should I start?

Well lets go right back to the 1st of January 2013.

80m Counties Contest

The 1st of January saw Mark EI7IS and David EI6GVB take part in the IRTS 80 metre Counties Contest with the EI2WRC call from David's QTH in Waterford City. The lad's gave out the Waterford county prefix for anyone who worked them.

Annual General Meeting

Although February was a quite month for activations, our AGM took place on the 25th with a large number of people including some new members attending.

A minutes silence was observed for the late Michael Hoban EI5DCB who sadly passed away in March 2012.

After the review of the previous year's events a new committee was elected and the night finished off with a chat between

members and some delicious Waterford bla's were on offer. Needless to say they didn't last very long!!!

2m Spring Counties Contest

March and April were also quite months on the activation fronts.

Apart from Alan EI3HDB and myself travelling to a very cold Mt. Leinster in Co. Carlow on Easter Monday the 1st of April for the 2 metres Counties Contest there wasn't much going on in public but lots of planning was being done behind the scenes for events we had coming up over the months ahead.

Our monthly meeting on the 29th of April had Michael Drennan EI7GH give a talk and display on all things homebrew.

Michael as some of you may know is an expert on homemade antenna's, traps and baluns.

He also has a wonderful gift of restoring old vintage value radios. The talk and display went down a treat with the large crowd present and we hope to have another talk from Michael in the near future.

Copper Coast Geopark, EI2GEO

The weekend of the 24th & 25th of May seen the SEARG crew head for the Copper Coast in Tankardstown on the coast of



David EI6GVB and Dennis EI2HSB prepare to "catapult" an antenna tie wire over a 70' high chimney stack in the Geopark



SEARG Annual General Meeting 2013



Paula McCarthy Manager of Copper Coast European Geo Park and her husband Eddie along with David EI6GVB and Mark EI7IS at the 2013 EI2GEO activation near Bunmahon.

(Continued from page 14)

Waterford for their annual Geopark activation EI2GEO. This has been a regular activation for the group for the last few years. Both the Saturday and Sunday were smashing days with temperatures up in the high 20's as some of the lads discovered a few days later with dreaded sunburn. Over the two days lots of QSO's were logged and loads of visitors called into the station. The highlight of the social end of the weekend was our by now our famous barbeque on the Saturday evening cooked by our own resident master chef Dennis Drennan EI2HSB.

Theory Refresher Course

June and July were very busy months for the group. Mark EI7IS and David EI6GVB provided a theory refresher course for anyone who wanted to re-sit the exam or for anyone who wanted to sit it and just needed a brush up on what they already knew. This course took place over three nights and much thanks goes to the lads for giving up their time to do this. The famous "class of 2012" of which I myself was part of now has an extremely high exam pass rate.



Dennis EI2HSB, David EI6GVB, Mark EI7IS and Alan EI3HDB are all lined up waiting for Mrs D. and Molly to dish out the grub at the Kells Priory activation. What a feed it was!!! Thanks to Molly and Mrs D.



Mark EI7IS operating the EI2WRC/P station at the Butlerstown Show

Kells Priory

The group also activated Kells Priory, in Kells, Co. Kilkenny on the 22nd and 23rd of June. It was the first time for Kells Priory to be activated.

It was assigned the CASHOTA ref: EI023/C.

Kells Priory is unique because it has seven castles within itself. On the Saturday evening we had a lovely dinner and desert thanks to Mrs. Bernadette Drennan (XYL of Dennis) and the dinner was so nice that some members of the group tucked into a second helping.

No names will be mentioned though!!

That Sunday the 23rd was the 80 metres Counties Contest and the group put the EI2WRC/P call on air from the Kells Priory.

Butlerstown & District Vintage Rally

On the 28th of July we took the short spin out to Butlerstown to put on a demonstration in the Butlerstown & District Vintage Society's annual vintage rally.

Club officer John Tubbritt EI3HQB is an active member of this society and has a great love of vintage cars. Although the day was spoiled with rain we still had a large number of visitors to the station.

Mark's buddi-pole was of particular interest to the visitors. The idea that this funny shaped aerial could let us talk to people around the globe seemed impossible to the public. But that idea

(Continued on page 16)



Mark EI4FNB, Seany EI2HZB, David EI6GVB, Mick EI7GH, Dennis EI2HSB and Junior Op Molly who were at the Kells Priory activation



John EI3HQB keeps the log book in order at the Inistioge Vintage rally which was held in August



The next generation of radio op's enjoying the entertainment at the Suir Valley Railway

(Continued from page 15)

soon vanished when contacts were made. A mountain of questions followed of which we were of course delighted to answer.

Inistioge Vintage Rally.

The 4th of August took up us to Inistioge in Co Kilkenny to take part in the Inistioge Vintage Rally. It was our 2nd year there and it proved again to be a great success. It was a great family day with many of the junior ops coming along with their parents. Although band conditions were awful on the day and heavy rain poured down for the most of the day we still have a great time.

Waterford & Suir Valley

We visited the Waterford & Suir Valley weekend over the 6th and 7th of September and yet again it proved to be a great public event to promote the club and amateur radio in general.

Club secretary Dennis got very involved with the magician that was there and took part in one of the performances much to the



SEARG club member Ray makes sure that no ghosts or ghouls knock down the banner at the Loftus Hall activation.



Dennis EI2HSB proves he has more than a talent for amateur radio at the Suir Valley Railway activation in September



David EI3HTB, Kieran EI9HDB and Kieran's xyl Mary had a brilliant time at the Loftus Hall event.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

amusement of the other club members in attendance. The junior ops who were there for the event then took a spin on the old railway and this was a big hit with them.

Loftus Hall

Ireland's most haunted house Loftus Hall in Co. Wexford proved to be a great setting for the CASHOTA activation EI025/SH on Friday the 13th of September. It was the first time for Loftus Hall to be activated. The lads arrived down early on the Friday and set up the gear. Loftus Hall was busy due to the day that was in it and that night there was a mystery murder event taking place. The screams from within the house could be heard for miles. Most of the lads stayed overnight and even though it is known as Ireland's most haunted house no one from the SEARG ranks saw anything unusual. As one member said the ghosts probably up and left when we moved in!!!

EI2EEN project in the Irish Museum of Modern Art

October was the start of the EI2EEN project in the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin. SEARG were contacted in May 2013 by Sarah Browne an artist based in Dublin wondering if we would like to get involved in a project she was doing about Eileen Gray.



Lyric FM DJ Luke Clancy tries his hand at CW at the EI2EEN station in the Irish Museum of Modern Art in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham



Tom EI7HT talking to a member of the public about the CW connection with Eileen Gray and the EI2EEN project.



SEARG Chairman for 2013 and weekly Tuesday night IRTS newsreader David EI6GVB gets to grips with the weekly news

Eileen Gray was an Irish born furniture designer who had a tendency to involve code in a lot of her creations. Needless to say we jumped at the opportunity to do this. The EI2EEN station was set up to transmit a poem specially written for the event in CW from the museum. After many months of planning and organising the event kicked off on the 11th of October. Members of the South Dublin Radio Society are also involved with us on this project. This project will continue on into early 2014.

EI13CLAN

The club took part in the EI13CLAN activation on the 23rd of November. Band conditions were poor over the event and the Digital sections of the bands were hard to work because of a CW contest that was taking place that same day. The event was eventually won by the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society and congratulations to all the lads there from all the lads in SEARG.

Christmas Get Together

Our annual Christmas get together took place on the 22nd December. The lads headed to the Imperial Garden Chinese restaurant in Waterford for some dinner followed by a few drinks in some of the Waterford hot spots. A great way to round off what was a great year for the radio club and its members.

Looking ahead to 2014

So what does 2014 hold in store? Well who knows? Possibly a CW course, another theory course, more new activations as well as the regular ones we have every year.

As I said who knows but one thing for certain SEARG will definitely be out there in the public eye in 2014 promoting this great hobby and getting as many people as we can interested in becoming operators.

Before I finish I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who made 2013 a great year for the group; people who ask us to do activations; property owners; the people who provide meals and accommodation when we are out and about. But most of all our families, wife's and partners who put up with us missing a lot of weekends to do the hobby we all love doing.

So as 2014 heads for March and spring beckons we hope that 2014 brings you all the best of everything like health, wealth, peace and that rare DXCC you might be chasing!!!

Sean Byrne EI2HZB, PRO, SEARG



Excerpts from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 028

Hello and welcome to the HX Files 028, and to 2014.

As there was no newsletter before Christmas, I hope you had a happy Christmas and have a happy and prosperous new year.

What to do next.

Over Christmas, I was looking at some of the bits and bobs, (well its better than looking at Bobs bits) in the projects pending department (the sheds).

The items that were bought over the last few rallies, and indeed some stuff that was given to me for parts, needed to be sorted out. Space was becoming a problem and finding the part or parts needed with nothing falling on me, and getting out alive was getting harder.

Those of you with space can decide on whether to dismantle the donor item as some of the parts needed are often safer to store in their original housing rather than taken apart.

With the parts removed a trip was made to the recycling centre with the unwanted and unusable items, and with the hope I did **NOT** see anything I could use.

Protection

The HX stores normally wait until a good coat of protection (dust) has appeared on a particular item that has been in the shed for a while, and that it will no longer be used for what the manufacture intended it to be, and then the parts removed.

It was on this particular rummage that the monitor featured was unearthed; it is an old security monitor measuring around 15 inches cubed. This cube was bought at a rally years ago, and was used for a while and then retired. With the parts bin in mind, it was noticed that the housing of the monitor was made from panels that were screwed and riveted to a frame. The plan was to remove them and add the sheets to the metal pile.

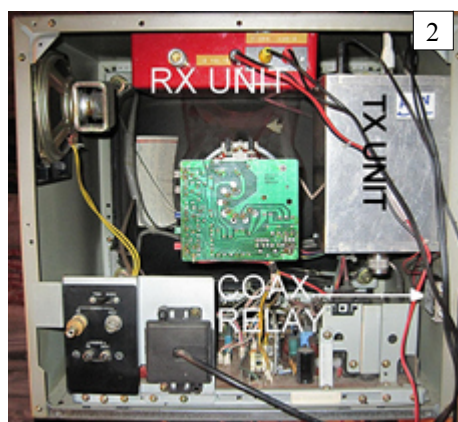
On removing the back of the monitor I saw that there was some space in it, photo



1, and then an idea came to mind, (and no it did not hurt much) it was decided to see if firstly it still worked, it did! It would not have been my first project that had to be modified or scrapped when the main part had gone faulty during storage, so it was left on overnight with a DVD playing some film to see if the picture and sound stayed working, all was good the next day and so I started on the project.

Parts and fitting

There was not enough space in the one area to accommodate the Tx/Rx in a single unit, so separate transmitter and receiver boards would be used instead in the monitor, see photo 2.



The individual Tx/Rx boards were enclosed in separate metal boxes, (used from other projects), some patch leads, switches and a relay were added to the mix. Also a small amp was fitted to the transmitter, the metal box would act as a heat sink.

As I wanted to keep everything inside the cube, fitting the parts to the inside of the cube involved the drilling of its case, but I did not want screw or bolt heads sticking out of the unit as they could snag and mark other equipment around it.

The metal on the case was thick enough to allow the use of some counter-sunk screws for a flush fitting and with all the screws, nuts and bolts in stock I had none of the flush fitting type in stock, so a trip to the local hardware store was on the cards and the items needed purchased.

After some moving around to see what would fit best in the space available some marking out was done and then the drilling carried out.

The drilling was a bit awkward, as the case of the monitor was not only bolted to the chassis but it was also pop riveted and it would have been difficult to take everything apart without damaging other

parts of the unit, the monitor was turned upside down for some of the drilling to keep the waste from dropping onto the other parts and some sticky tape was used to mop up the waste.

The back panel was easy to remove by removing a few screws, it is a sturdy piece of metal and I would be mounting an "N" type socket into it.

Power for the ATV equipment would be from either a 12v power supply or car battery. The monitor would be powered by mains if at home or an inverter if it is being used portable.

A word of caution

I would have to take care, as in use at home it would mean there would be mains power in use and it could be fatal if any adjustments were to be made whilst the unit was in use.

Fitting of the parts was not too bad having done a dry fit first, but once you start adding the various cables and leads you would start running out of space all too quickly.



The first plan was to place as many of the controls as possible on the back, but the thoughts of hands reaching around the back of the unit that would be ran off 240v made me decide to have a remote switching box, see photo 3, that would lay on top of the unit and then a removable cable used to connect the unit to the switching box.

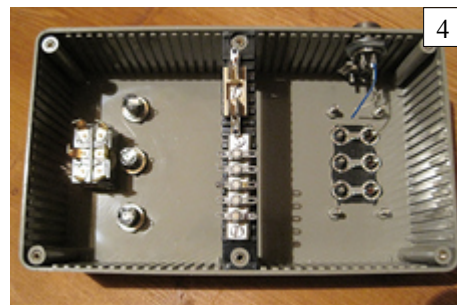


Photo 4 shows the control box without the wiring.

The bar in the centre holds a fuse holder

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)
and a connection strip.

It should be noted that this bar is shown up side down just for the picture.

The decision to use two microphone sockets instead of a six pin one was taken due to the fact that the dc cable was nearly as thick as the audio/video leads and I wanted to give myself a bit of room to work with.

Using the 2 pin dc connector was not without some trouble, as those old experimenters out there (author included) may remember the old 2 pin Yaesu dc leads, and the fact that there were 3 types that had different distances between the pins and the grief to get ones to pair up to make a spare dc lead.
RF output of the unit is just under 10 watts and it will certainly be more than enough for what is needed.



With the fittings on the back panel, (photo 5), the leads were longer than they needed to be, as they would have to be long enough to allow the back panel to be removed and to be out of the way to carry out any adjustments.

In use

I have used the unit several times and having great fun with it.
But, due to nearly dropping it on more than one occasion when out portable, a couple of sturdy handles will be fitted to it in the near future when I get ones sturdy enough.

That is it for this issue,
I hope to see you at the Society's AGM in Galway.

May your signals be P5.
73 Pat.

EI's on EQSL

(as at January 31st 2013)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

DXCC Confirmed			
250	EI7BA (+4)	73	EI6IF
220	EI9O	73	EI3HGB
211	EI7CC (+7)	71	EI7GUB
208	EI9JU	70	EI6GF
208	EI9FBB (+1)	70	EI3HMB (+15)
191	EI2JD	69	EI8GP
188	EI3IO	68	EI8JB
182	EI4CF	68	EI6CPB (+8)
182	EI9KC (+11)	67	EI1571
172	EI2KC	65	EI6ARB
172	EI2GLB	65	EI8DD
170	EI1DG	64	EI9FV
169	EI4GJB	63	EI5DD (+4)
165	EI0CZ	61	EI4IS
165	EI8GS	61	EI9JM
163	EI6JK	59	EI5HE
163	EI9FVB	58	EI5GB (+4)
162	EI8IU (+14)	57	EI4GD
161	EI8FH (+6)	56	EI7BMB
158	EI3KG	55	EI6GGB
157	EI7JZ (+7)	55	EI1509
156	EI3GYB	54	EI7IQ
154	EI7JN	54	EI5ASB (+9)
148	EI9HX	52	EI8H
147	EI6IZ	52	EI8JW
143	EI9E	51	EI2HRB
142	EI5GM	50	EI6AK
141	EI4HH	49	EI1429
139	EI6AL	49	EI2FSB
133	EI0W	48	EI2BWB
133	EI7JK (+1)	48	EI4GMB
132	EI3CTB (+9)	47	EI3EBB
130	EI6IL	46	EI7GEB
128	EI9HQ	46	EI9GWB
128	EI9GLB	45	EI5GN
127	EI6HB	45	EI9KG
127	EI4GNB (+4)	45	EI7GBB (+2)
123	EI5JQ	45	EI1665
122	EI8IQ	43	EI4DIB
120	EI3HA (+12)	43	EI7IS
118	EI5GSB	42	EI5IX
116	EI4BZ	42	EI7GM
115	EI5HV (+7)	41	EI4IR
115	EI6GHB	40	EI3HBB
115	EI8BLB (+19)	40	EI9GRB
111	EI3GAB (+6)	39	EI4HX
111	EI7GSB	38	EI2FS
109	EI4KE (+5)	37	EI4CN
109	EI5IF	35	EI3GDB
107	EI5EV (+7)	35	EI1666 (New)
106	EI3KE	34	EI3HVB (New)
105	EI7DAR	33	EI7CSB
104	EI3KI (+30)	31	EI7GZB
104	EI4GXB	30	EI7CHB
103	EI7IX		
103	EI5GJB		
102	EI3HDB (+20)	40	EI0CZ
101	EI2II	40	EI1DG
101	EI8HL (+4)	40	EI2JD
100	EI3JB	40	EI2KC (+4)
98	EI0PL	40	EI2GLB
96	EI9CF (+25)	40	EI4CF
95	EI5GUB	40	EI7BA
92	EI8JR	40	EI7JN
88	EI8JB (+20)	40	EI7JZ
87	EI3GD	40	EI9O
87	EI4HQ	40	EI9JU
87	EI9GTB	40	EI9KC (+1)
86	EI9ES	40	EI9FBB
85	EI9KB	39	EI0W (+7)
85	EI4GAB (+5)	39	EI3IO
84	EI3IS	39	EI3KG
84	EI7BFB (+1)	39	EI4GXB
81	EI2HW (New)	39	EI5JQ (+2)
80	EI9EW (+4)	39	EI7CC
79	EI8JK	39	EI8FH (+2)
79	EI9GSB	39	EI8GS
78	EI9GGB (+7)	39	EI9HX
74	EI8DL	39	EI9GLB
74	EI6GGB (+2)	38	EI3GYB
		38	EI4HH
		38	EI4KE
		37	EI4BZ
		37	EI5IF
		37	EI6IL
		37	EI6JK
		36	EI8IU (+4)
		36	EI9FVB
		35	EI4GNB
		33	EI5GM
		33	EI6AL
		32	EI3HA
		32	EI7GSB
		32	EI8BLB
		31	EI5GJB
			Worked Prefixes
		1,678	EI4CF (+32)
		1,628	EI9E (+60)
		1,558	EI7CC (+91)
		1,518	EI6JK (+97)
		1,498	EI9JU (+22)
		1,387	EI8GS (+52)
		1,319	EI2JD (+15)
		1,304	EI7JN (+40)
		1,282	EI9KC (+54)
		1,257	EI9FBB (+28)
		1,252	EI0CZ (+34)
		1,232	EI0W (+27)
		1,174	EI4GXB (+89)
		1,169	EI1DG (+71)
		1,162	EI3KG (+64)
		1,140	EI2KC (+54)
		1,127	EI9HQ (+13)
		1,093	EI7JK (+41)
		1,093	EI3CTB (+109)
		1,085	EI2GLB (+28)
		1,003	EI0PL (+144)
		975	EI3IO (+12)
		975	EI8FH (+86)
		970	EI7BA (+33)
		942	EI2II (+33)
		910	EI7GSB (+39)
		902	EI9FVB (+22)
		870	EI4GNB (+35)
		869	EI4BZ (+6)
		859	EI7JZ (+89)
		855	EI6AL (+15)
		806	EI5HV (+202)
		789	EI8IU (+90)
		767	EI5JQ (New)
		744	EI4GAB (+92)
		738	EI9O (+13)
		737	EI8BLB (+50)
		722	EI5IF (+9)
		721	EI8IQ (+33)
		720	EI3GAB (+18)
		716	EI3GYB (+30)
		655	EI8JB (+5)
		654	EI5GM (+20)
		652	EI3HDB (New)
		647	EI3KE (+100)
		647	EI5GSB (+14)
		615	EI8HL (+34)
		600	EI3JB
		582	EI3KI (New)
		579	EI5GJB (+8)
		577	EI9JM (+2)
		530	EI4KE (+11)
		507	EI5JQ (New)
		502	EI3HA (+11)
		490	EI4HH (+22)
		418	EI8GP (+1)
		440	EI9GTB (+36)
		483	EI3IS (+82)
		432	EI9GSB (+42)
		384	EI7IX (+59)
		368	EI3HDB (+53)
		343	EI9GLB (+35)
			www.eqsl.cc

Pictures from Coolmine Rally 2014 by Anthony EI2KC



Antonio EI2KG, Declan EI4GJB and David EI6GVB



Patrick EI4HKB, Antonio EI2KG and Dennis EI2HSB



Sean EI9CCB and Don EI6IL



Ark EI9KC and Adam EI5JQ



Sean EI4IP and John EI2EK



John EI6DN and Pierce EI4CI



Tony EI4DIB and Michael EI9GGB



Tom EI9CJ and Thos EI2JD



Congratulations to Jordan Cummins EI4HLB, Ireland's youngest amateur at 14 years of age.

Jordan, a member of the North Cork Radio Group, son of Tony EI3GAB and Lisa EI9GSB, passed the radio amateurs examination last October and got his callsign shortly after that.

Jordan was a member of the EI team at Youngsters on the Air in Estonia last August. Jordan recounted his experiences there in the October 2013 Echo Ireland



Commission for
Communications Regulation

February 2013

In June 2009 the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Station Licence) Regulations 2009 came into force which changed individual Amateur Station Licences from annual licences to lifetime licences. Whilst the licences are lifetime licences, under the regulations licensees are required to confirm the details of their licence to ComReg every five years.

ComReg will begin advising licensees how to comply with this requirement in 2014.

However, ComReg has yet to determine how this process will take place, but will endeavour to make it as smooth as possible.

Outgoing QSL Bureau Address

**Tony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin,
Kilcrohane,
Bantry,
Co. Cork.**

The EI6IJ Fund in support of Affiliated Clubs

Each year, in order to promote Amateur Radio to the public, the Committee will consider the awarding of a number of grants to Affiliated Clubs.

These grants will primarily be funded by a kind donation by the late John O'Riordan EI6IJ. The grants will be of around €300, usually not exceeding a total of €1,000 in any one year, and are to assist with the mounting of public special event stations by clubs affiliated to IRTS.

The stations should have **significant** public exposure with the specific intention of demonstrating Amateur Radio to members of the public. The funds may be allocated in one or more grants, or not at all, depending on the nature of applications received.

Applications to be made **in writing** to the **Secretary** of the Society for consideration by the Committee.

The following notes should act as a guide for interested Clubs.

1. Applicant Clubs must be affiliated to the Society and must demonstrate that they still fulfil the criteria for affiliation.
2. Applicants should fully describe the proposed event and show how they intend to promote Amateur Radio to the public.
3. A draft budget for the event should be submitted showing proposed expenditure and details of full or part matching Club funds in addition to the IRTS grant.
4. Grants will be released in two tranches, 50% up front and 50% on receipt of a report to the Committee after the event.
5. Applicant Clubs are fully responsible for the events and the award of an IRTS grant does not confer any vetting approval by the Society or acceptance of any responsibility.
6. Events should promote Amateur Radio and IRTS. Events taking place in GI are eligible, but should jointly promote IRTS and RSGB as national societies
7. The above proposal would have a life span as long as funds remain (5 years at present). However, from time to time smaller donations of equipment are given to the Society and the proceeds of the sale of same could be added to the fund. At present the fund is 'ring fenced' within the Society accounts.

SDR Net - First Anniversary

In late 2012, some members of the South Dublin Radio Club discussed the possibility of establishing an EI Net on the 40metre band

In early December 2012, John EI7BV, Tom EI7HT and Tony EI7GUB took the first tentative steps in establishing what has become known as the 'SDR Net'.

Since then it has become a regular feature on the 40meter band, not only among SDR Members but also with a number of EIs from around the country as well as a few regular GIs.

As we celebrate our first anniversary this week-end, we thank everyone who has supported the net and extend an invitation to all EIs to call in.

Custom and practice has now established 7110 kHz +/- QRM as the Net frequency. It normally commences around 11.30 following the 40m news call-ins and typically runs for 45 minutes to an Hour.

Contest Corner By Thos Caffrey EI2JD

IRTS 80 Metres Counties Contest

The IRTS 80 metres counties contest was held on New Year's Day. Band conditions were favourable - low noise levels and good local propagation at least for the first two hours; as darkness fell, some contesters had to contend with strong signals from continental European stations.

The contest was well supported by Irish and British stations. Most EI and GI counties were heard, although some Midland counties such as Carlow, Laois and Offaly did not feature in any of our correspondents' logs.

Despite the inclement weather, at least four stations operated portable: Shannon Basin Radio Club (EI3Z) were on Cairn Hill in Longford, two portable stations were in County Cork: Avondhu Radio Club (EI1E) in Watergrasshill and Dave EI9FBB, who was on Bweeing, near Mallow. We also heard Joe EI7GY, operating from a site near Glenmalure in County Wicklow. We look forward to hearing you all on the 80m Counties Contest on June 22nd from 1400 to 1700utc.

Upcoming IRTS Contests

The next IRTS Contest will be the Spring 2m Counties on Easter Monday, April 21st from 1500 - 1700.

This is always a very popular contest and please do try and get on for an hour or two. Better still, hop in the car, find a hill and operate portable.

The CW Field Day is on over the weekend of June 7th and 8th and it is not the bank holiday weekend this year so no excuses!

VHF/UHF Field Day is on July 5th and 6th and remember you can enter a single band in this one. From 6m to 1296Mhz.

The Autumn 2m Counties Contest will be held on Sunday August 24th and the SSB Field Day will be held over the weekend of September 6th and 7th. Hope to hear you on!

Contest Results: VHF - UHF Field Day 2013

Call Sign/Name	Valid QSOs	Total Points
Open Section		
EI9E/P Network Southern Area R.E.C.	1414	770,125
Restricted Section		
50MHz EI13CLAN Tipperary ARG	18	13,284
70MHz EI9CJ/P Tom McDermott	3	68
144MHz EI7T/P Tipperary ARG.	100	61,835
432MHz EI7TRG/P Tipperary ARG	12	7,242
1296MHz EI7DAR/P Dundalk ARS	1	15

Contest Results: 2m Counties Contest, Autumn 2013

a) High Power Portable

Callsign	QSOs	Cntys	Points	County
EI EI2SBC/P, Shannon Basin RC	41	17	3,638	LON

b) Low Power Portable

No entry

c) High Power Fixed

EI EI4CF, Niall Foley	34	16	2,464	GAL
EI7T, Tipperary ARG	37	13	1,807	TIP
OEI MI0RRE, Robert Rantin	34	12	1,617	ARM
EI9JS, Dominic Curtin	12	7	343	MAY

d) Low Power Fixed

EI EI3ENB, Paul Norris	11	4	104	KLK
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e) FM Only - Single Operator

EI EI6JK, Mark Condon	21	13	1,092	ROS
EI6GGB, Anthony Dolan	15	11	759	ROS
EI4IP/P, Sean Kennedy	9	8	296	MEA
EI9FVB, Declan Horan	7	5	210	KER
EI5KF, Gerard Scannell	13	8	376	COR

f) SWL

EI EI1166, Ivan Tallon	15	11	748	MEA
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Check Log EI3FBB

EI = Award Winner - Leading EI Station

OEI = Award Winner - Leading Station Outside EI

Contest Results: 80m Counties Contest, Summer 2013

a) SSB Only Fixed

	Callsign	QSOs	Cntys	Points	County
EI	EI3HDB, Alan Buckley	24	13	1,170	WEX
	EI9O, Eoin Fagan	24	12	1,116	LON
OEI	MI0RRE, Robert Rantin	19	11	836	ARM
	EI7CC, Peter Ball	10	9	360	DUB
	EI2HIB, Martin Murphy	5	4	80	WAT
	MI9DWE, David Eames	2	2	16	FER

b) SSB Only Portable

EI	EI2WRC/P South Eastern ARG	29	16	1,760	KLK
	EI0M/P, Mayo REN	17	10	690	MAY

c) SSB/CW Fixed

EI	EI2JD, Thos Caffrey	36	15	1,890	LOU
	EI6JK, Mark Condon	23	12	1,068	ROS
OEI	GI0SRQ George McHugh	18	12	864	ARM
	EI5KF, Gerard Scannell	20	10	800	COR

d) SSB/CW Portable

EI	EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin RC	14	10	560	LEI
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e) SWL No Entry

Check Log EI4IR

EI = Award Winner - Leading EI Station

OEI = Award Winner - Leading Station Outside EI



Avondhu Radio Club EI1E/P

Winners of the Open Section
in SSB Field Day 2013
Gerard EI5KF, Jim EI8GG,
Denis EI4KH

Amateur Radio Union of Serbia

Tesla Memorial HF Contest

We invite members of your Society to participate in "Tesla Memorial HF Contest" which will be held on March, 08/09 2014, starting at 18:00 UTC and ending at 08:00 UTC.

The competition is open to operators all over the Globe.

General rules are:

Everyone works everyone on 80m band only CW;

Points are: distance between stations.

Exchange:

RST + QSO NR + QTH Locator (first four elements of grid square);

Exchange examples: 599 043 JO54, 599 065 FN12.

Categories:

Multi Op.-Single Tx HP;

Single Op. HP, LP and QRP - full or limited time.

WEB service software for receiving logs will be on and is one of ways for updating logs.

Claimed scores will be published right after log submission deadline.

Check our website for rules, awarding and more details:

<http://www.radiosport.org.rs/HFTeslaMemorial/>

Thank you in advance for supporting this contest.

Amateur Union of Serbia
Secretary
Zvonko Colja YT1WA

Contest Results: SSB Field Day 2013

	Call Sign/Name	QSOs	Mults	Total
Open Section				
1	EI1E/P, Avondhu Radio Club (Ops: EI5KF, EI4KH, EI8GG)	656	108	229,392
2	EI7T/P, Tipperary ARG (Ops: EI2IT, EI3ENB)	241	32	50,858
Restricted Section				
1	EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin RC (Ops: EI's4CF, 6IB, 8IU, 5GUB, 6GGB)	711	95	226,955
2	EI2KA/P, Tim McKnight (Ops: EI2KA, EI9GRB)	155	42	25,158



The EI13CLAN Challenge

Report

With the year of the Gathering now over, the final totals for the call are as follows; 30,340 QSO in the log. 173 Countries worked. Breakdown of QSO: CW 53%, SSB 35%, Digital 12% Over 74,000 visits were made to the EI13CLAN page on QRZ.com, many of whom will have followed the link to the IRTS website. To date 281 Direct QSL requests have been processed and many Clan Certificates issued.

Over 1,500 QSL cards already arrived through the buro and return cards processed. Seven Clubs took part in the EI13CLAN Challenge.

Congratulations must go to the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society who emerged as the winner. They will be picking up an Icom 756PRO at the IRTS AGM in Galway later this year. They were the first to enter the challenge and their score was chased hard but never beaten.

A big thanks to all those who took part, it gave the call great exposure. Thanks also, to the many individual operators who worked the call during the year across all bands and modes.

Kerry Amateur Radio Group

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group is pleased to announce another step in the groups ongoing 70cms repeater upgrade program.

The repeater has moved to a new home.

Situated on Mullaghanish, Co. Kerry with a new callsign EI7MGR, the better coverage will ensure a greater availability of the repeater to the amateur radio community in Co. Kerry and beyond.

Reception reports have already been received from areas not covered from the previous location.

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group look forward to receiving reception reports to ei1karg@gmail.com and to working you on the air.

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group wish to thank all those who have assisted with the continuing repeater upgrade program.

Contest Results: CW Field Day 2013

Call Sign/Name	QSOs	Total
Open Section		
1 EI5KF/P, Gerard Scannell	1,067	455,022
Restricted Section		
1 EI1C/P, Cork Radio Club	903	365,105
2 EI4HH/P, Jim Holohan	711	249,561
3 EI7GY/P, Joe Ryan	140	21,560

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

February 2014

21-23 Fri 2200 - Sun 2200 CQ Worldwide 160-Meter Contest SSB

March 2014

01-02 Sat 0000 - Sat 2359 ARRL International DX Contest SSB
 02-02 Sun 1100 - Sun 1700 DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest RTTY
 15-16 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 Russian DX Contest CW/SSB
 29-30 Sat 0000 - Sat 2359 CQ Worldwide WPX Contest SSB

April 2014

05-06 Sat 1500 - Sun 1500 SP DX Contest CW/SSB
 05-06 Sat 1600 - Sun 1600 EA RTTY Contest RTTY
 12-13 Sat 0700 - Sun 1300 Japan International DX Contest CW
 12-13 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 OK-OM DX SSB Contest SSB
 12 Sat 1600 - Sat 1959 EU Sprint Spring CW
 19 Sat 1600 - Sat 1959 EU Sprint Spring SSB
 21 Mon 1500 - 1700 IRTS 2m Counties Spring FM/SSB
 26-27 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 SP DX RTTY Contest RTTY

May 2014

03-04 Sat 1200 - Sun 1159 ARI International DX Contest CW/SSB/RTTY
 10-11 Sat 1200 - Sun 1159 CQ-M International DX Contest CW/SSB
 17-18 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 European PSK DX Contest BPSK63
 17-18 Sat 1200 - Sun 1200 His Majesty The King of Spain Contest CW
 24-25 Sat 0000 - Sun 2359 CQ World Wide WPX Contest CW

Irish Amateur Television Club

The IATC welcome visitors to their website, www.iatc.ie

Should any amateur radio operator have an ATV project they would like to be featured on the IATC website, details of how this can be achieved are available by visiting the above site.

The Dublin ATV repeater is running a test card on 2390.00MHz.

This frequency is just below the 2.4Ghz video senders section.

All reports are welcome and should be sent to Tom, EI7HT at South Dublin Radio Club.

New St. Patrick's Day Award

Many amateurs celebrate St Patricks Day on air.

This year a new St Patrick's Day award will be starting, which a group of Northern Ireland amateurs hope to organise annually on the 17th March from 12am to 12pm.

If you wish to participate as an award station or for more information on how to can gain the award, go to

<http://stpatrickaward.webs.com>

Bobby Wadey
MI0RYL

(as at February 1st 2014)

DXCC Honor Roll				DXCC Challenge												
Mixed				2,834	EI7BA (+ 24)											
340	EI6FR/348			2,256	EI9FBB (+39)											
339	EI7BA/344			1,850	EI3IO											
338	EI7CC/353			1,767	EI6FR											
337	EI8H/365			1,709	EI2JD (+4)											
337	EI8EM/345			1,654	EI7CC											
332	EI6S/351			1,492	EI6IZ											
332	EI2GS/340			1,318	EI2GLB											
Phone				1,149	EI9FVB											
337	EI8EM/345			1,139	EI4BZ											
336	EI7CC/351			1,051	EI7GY											
336	EI7BA/341			1,018	EI9JF											
331	EI6S/348			1,013	EI1DG (New)											
CW																
332	EI7BA/336															

DXCC Single Band Status (01/02/14)															
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2			
10	EI9FBB	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-			
10	EI3IO	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-			
10	EI2JD	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-			
10	EI7BA	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-			
9	EI6IZ	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
8	EI6FR	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
8	EI2GLB	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-			
7	EI4BZ	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	-	10	-	-			
7	EI7GY	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
6	EI9FVB	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
6	EI8IU	-	-	-	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
6	EI1DG	-	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-			
5	EI4GJB	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
5	EI6AL	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-			
5	EI7JZ	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-			
5	EI8GS	-	80	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-			
5	EI9JF	-	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	-	-	-			
5	EI9E	-	80	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-			
4	EI3GV	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-			
3	EI4GK	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-			
3	EI4HH	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-			
3	EI6HB	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-			
3	EI7GL	-	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	10	6	-			
3	EI9GLB	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-			
2	EI2II	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	10	-	-			
2	EI7JN	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-			
1	EI3EBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-			
1	EI3HA	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI4DQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2			
1	EI5FQB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI5GSB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI5IF	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI6S	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI8IQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI9CJ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-			
1	EI9HQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	EI3CTB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-			
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2			

See www.arrl.org/dxcc



Radio, Electronics and Hobbies Exhibition
Sunday 9th March 2014

Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick
Doors open 11:00 am; All are Welcome

Admission fee €5



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Special Callsign Justin EI30T

The callsign EI30T (Echo India Three Zero Tango) has been issued to Justin EI3CTB as a special callsign to use during 2014 to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of his amateur radio licence issued in 1984. This is the first time the prefix EI30 has been issued.

Radio News Input

Before 1200 on Thursdays

to
newsteam@irts.ie

Material for Echo Ireland
should be sent to:

Dave Moore EI4BZ
ei4bz@eircom.net
087-6290574

Members Free Advertisements

For Sale:

Cushcraft A4S. 20 15 10m band beam.
Dismantled but complete. In excellent
condition. Traps are dry and it has been
stored indoors. €375 o.n.o.

Cushcraft R8 HF vertical.
Dismantled but complete. In excellent
condition and is stored indoors.
Comes with optional guying kit.
€375 o.n.o.

Contact: John EI8JA 087 9437500
Email: ei8ja@eircom.net

For Sale:

Yaesu FT-847 with Auto ATU.
AOR 5000 fitted with Analogue de-
scrambler, with AS5000 antenna switch.
Bearcat 800XLT
WIN radio G305 with MPT1372 and
P25
Kenetic SBS-1-ER with antenna and
coax.
Ring 086-3032705

Wanted:

HF Linear for parts/repair, condition
unimportant. Have you an old FL2100z -
TL922A - SB220 - Heatherlite or any
other that is unwanted, not working.
Any condition, will arrange collection.
Contact David EI5KG, 087-2425643,
ei5kgs@gmail.com

For Sale:

AL-80B 1KW Ameritron Amplifier
Mint condition, Works all bands 100%,
Original packaging and manuals,
Price on request.
Contact Eoin at 086 6009110

For Sale

Yaesu Ft 817 QRP transceiver n good
working condition c/w 3 section aerial,
charger, MH-31 microphone, manual
and boxed €425.00

Yaesu MD1B8 desk microphone €80 00

FT-900C Transceiver. Non ATU version
but fitted with Collins SSB filter. Fully
working with user manual and MH31
Mic. General condition good but with
some light marks on top case and slight
wear on front panel. €400.00

For pictures of items for sale please go to
the MREN web site
<http://ei7mre.org/>

Contact: Dominic 086 8941900
Email: ei9jsdominic@gmail.com

The Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society Annual Rally

Saturday March 1st at 1130

**The Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road,
Hillsborough BT26 6AR**

**Admission £3.00 and includes raffle on door ticket
Top prize is a twin-band handheld transceiver.**

**All the usual traders are expected to attend.
Car parking and refreshments available plus bring and buy and club stand.**

**Further information from Jim, GI0DVU.
Telephone 0489 2662270 (from ROI) or 0289 2662270 (from UK)**

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club

32nd Annual Rally

Sunday 11th May

The Share Centre,

Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. BT92 0EQ

Details from Iain MI0IIG 028-6632-6693

www.learc.eu

IRTS Shop

IRTS Members can avail of a 10% discount on purchases from the RSGB on line shop.

IRTS members should select the "**Non members Price**" before placing the order and then enter the special IRTS Discount Code during the checkout process.

At this point the 10% discount will be calculated.

IRTS members, who are also RSGB members, should continue to select the "**RSGB Member's Price**" and not use the IRTS Discount Code.

The IRTS Discount Code will change from time to time and will be published for members in Echo Ireland.

Currently the Code is:

IRTS2012XWW

The RSGB Shop can be accessed from the link on the IRTS website or directly at

www.rsgbshop.org

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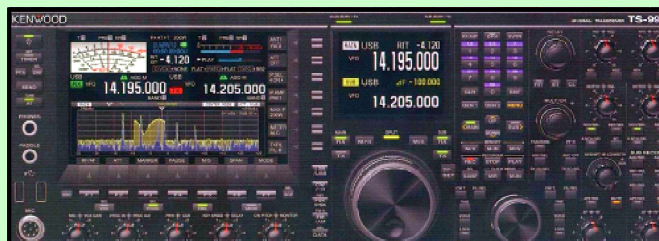
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Icom IC-7000. HF to 70cms. Boxed. As new	€999.00
Icom IC-7400. HF + 6m + 2m. Auto ATU. Boxed. Mint	€1,299.00
Icom SP10. Extension speaker for IC-7000/IC-706.....	€39.00
Icom SP20. Base station Speaker for IC775 etc.....	€149.00
Icom UT-106. DSP Unit for IC-706 etc.....	€75.00
Kenwood AT-230. 200w Manual ATU	€175.00
Kenwood MC-80. Desk mike for all Kenwood radios	€79.00
Kenwood TS-570D. Auto ATU, DSP 100w. Intermittent squelch.....	€425.00
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MFJ 214. Amplifier Saver	€50.00
MFJ 936B. Loop Antenna Tuner	€199.00
MFJ-949E. 300w manual ATU. Crossed needle meters	€149.00
Sirio 827. 10/12 metre 5/8 vertical.....	€99.00
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Yaesu VX-170. 2m handheld + charger.....	€79.00
Yaesu FT-817ND. HF to 70cms. All Mode Portable	€449.00
Yaesu FT-1000MP AC Version. Auto ATU + DSP	€1,299.00

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